THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, October 31, 1808.

MONASTIC INSTITUTIONS.

THOUGH the example of the venerable founder of the Christian faith stood directly opposed to a life of monastic seclusion, and the precepts of his religion require duties which can scarcely have existence in a convent; it is yet a fact of indisputable notoriety, that for many ages a life of ascetic mortification in the cave of an hermit, or the cell of a monastery, was esteemed the perfection of the Christian character; by the endurance of which not only the salvation of the mortified recluse was secured, but a considerable overplus of merit vested in the church to be applied from time to time to the alleviation of those torments, which ordinary Christians were exposed to in the place of purgatory. This dogma added immensely to the power and emolument of the church.

To develope the causes, and trace the several steps by which this corruption obtained so general an establishment in the Christian church, would be incompatible with the limits and design of this work; the following brief outline, of the more prominent features of the latter, may not however be considered as unacceptable:—

An Egyptian of the name of Paul, who lived in the seventh persecution, or about the year 260, is said to have been the first Christian anchorite, and to have been the immediate occasion of the establishment of monastic institutions; the abode of this recluse being discovered by a person of the name of Anthony, he was so pleased with its abstraction from the cares of the world, that meeting with other persons of similar views, he formed a code of regulations for their government; these regulations, and the mode of life to which they were subservient,

vient, soon found their way into Palestine and all the eastern churches. From the east this gloomy institution soon passed into the west; St. Martin, bishop of Tours, first planted it in Gaul, and his funeral is said to have been attended by no less than 2000 monks.

The number of monks in the fourth century is said to have been incredibly great; in Egypt alone they were computed at 70,000, which, perhaps, may be partly accounted for by observing, that at this period monastic institutions were much favoured by the mistaken piety of Christian princes, who enacted many laws for their protection and patronage. Nor is it easy to conceive the respect with which the cloistered monks were universally treated: whenever they journied, or wherever their retreat could be discovered, people of all ranks flocked to them, loading them with presents, and supplicating for an interest in their prayers.

The early monks courted solitude, and were equally abstracted from the secular concerns of the church, and the general commerce of the world. Their successors it is well known transacted with great address the business of both these departments; the gross ignorance of the secular clergy, (as they came afterwards to be named, in opposition to the monks, who were called the regular) greatly facilitated the introduction of the latter into all those departments which could not be transacted without the knowledge of letters; their freedom from the business and amusements of common life left them abundant leisure for literary avocations, and in which they soon obtained an obvious superiority over the other clergy.

It was about the year 606 that the monks were admitted into holy orders, and had all the privileges of the priesthood conferred upon them; and about this time monasteries are said to have been first introduced into this country; when a considerable number are stated to have been founded, particularly in the northern districts, but which were almost entirely destroyed by the Norway invaders about the year 867. In the seventh century the heads of great families were much in the habit of devoting their children to the monastic life, probably hoping thereby to atone for the vices which they were unwilling to part with. Through the operation of this and other causes, the endowments of monasteries became equal, and frequently superior to those of churches; and the influence of the regulars with statesmen, became greatly superior to that of the secular clergy; and soon after this period we find them not only executing the functions of ambassadors, but even invested with the military character, at the head of armies. About the ninth century, these singular institutions appear to have reached their highest point of elevation, monarchs abandoning their regal honours, shut themselves up in cloisters, under the idea of devoting

devoting themselves entirely to the service of the deity, or rather to some of those numerous tutelar deities, who under the name of saints, usurped the honour, and more than shared the worship, due only to the Supreme Being; and those who did not chuse prematurely to give up the pleasures of this world, put on the monastic habit at the approach of death, that they might be considered as belonging to the fraternity, and be entitled to the benefit of its prayers. Many persons even made it an important part of their testamentary wills, that their bodies should be wrapped in old habits belonging to the different orders of the monks.

Being prevented by the rules of their orders from marrying, great irregularities prevailed; and about the tenth century we find great complaints of their immoral conduct; they had become wealthy, and though wealth does not create vice, it gives additional means of gratifying it. To remedy in some measure these gross immoralities, the mendicant or begging friars, who disclaimed all property, were introduced by Innocent the Third, and patronized by succeeding pontiffs; but these itinerant monks, under the pretence of charity, intermeddled with all affairs, public and private, and were frequently employed by the pope, who knew that they would go all lengths for the church; and they were selected as the most proper persons to manage that dreadful instrument of spiritual tyranny, the inquisition.

About the fifteenth century, monastic establishments begun to decline; the unruly passions of a despotic monarch accomplished at a single blow their destruction in this country; the progress of the reformed religion lessened their numbers and their influence upon the continent, and the late revolution in France, has absorbed the revenues, and opened the gates of the numerous monasteries in that kingdom; and in catholic countries in general they are rather tolerated than patronized, and it is not probable that their revenues will long escape the grasp of the civil power, some of which have already been diverted to other uses, and the rest will not perhaps be much longer spared.

Though these institutions seem now perfectly useless, yet in the turbulent and dark ages which succeeded the subversion of the Roman empire, they furnished a desirable asylum from the ravages of war, and prevented the total extinction of literature.

ANECDOTES *of the late* PROFESSOR PORSON.

THE late Professor Porson was born at East-Ruston, Norfolk, on Christmas-day, 1759, so that he was only in his

49th year. The circumstances which laid the foundation of that most inestimable memory, by which he was enabled to store his mind with all the riches of literature, ancient and modern, must be interesting to the world. He owed the blessing to the care and judgment of his father, Mr. Huggin Porson, who was parish-clerk of East-Ruston, and who, though in humble life, and without the advantages himself of early education, laid the basis of his son's unparalleled acquirements. From the earliest dawn of intellect, Mr. Porson began the task of fixing the attention of his children, three sons and a daughter, and he had taught Richard, his eldest son, all the common rules of arithmetic, without the use of a book or slate, pen or paper, up to the cube root, before he was nine years of age. The memory was thus incessantly exercised, and by his early habit of working a question in arithmetic by the mind only, he acquired such a talent of close and intense thinking, and such a power of arranging every operation that occupied his thought as in process of time to render the most difficult problems, which to other men required the assistance of written figures, easy to the retentive faculties of his memory. He was initiated in letters by a process equally efficacious: his father taught him to read and write at one and the same time: he drew the form of the letter either with chalk on a board, or with the finger in sand; and Richard was made at once to understand and imitate the impression.

Don Pedro Cevallos's Exposition of the Machinations which led to the Usurpation of the Crown of Spain.

(Continued from Page 852.)

"BESIDES these considerations, having a direct relation to the interest of both states, I expatiated on others no less cogent, and connected with the character of the French cabinet.

"I reminded the minister, that, on the 27th of October last, a treaty was signed at Fontainbleau, wherein the emperor guaranteed the independence and integrity of the Spanish monarchy as it then was; that nothing had since occurred which could justify its infraction; on the contrary, that Spain had continued to add new claims to the confidence and gratitude of the French empire, as his imperial majesty himself had confessed, by the praises which he bestowed on the good faith and constant friendship of his intimate and first ally.

"What confidence, I added, can Europe place in her treaties with France, when she looks to the perfidy with which that of the 27th of October has been violated? And what must be her

her terror when she sees the captious means, the seductive artifices, and the false promises, by which his imperial majesty has confined the king in the city of Bayonne, in order to despoil him of the crown to which, with the inexpressible joy of his people, he has been called by the fundamental laws of the kingdom, and the spontaneous abdication of his august father. Posterity will not believe that the emperor could have given so great a blow to his own reputation, the loss of which will leave no other means of concluding a war with him, than that of total destruction and extermination.

"This was the state of the discussion, when the emperor, who had overheard our conference, ordered us to enter his own cabinet, where, to my great surprise, I was insulted by his imperial majesty with the infamous appellation of traitor, upon no other ground than that, having been minister to Charles IV. I continued to serve his son Ferdinand VII. He also accused me, in an angry tone, of having maintained, in an official conference with General Montion, that my master, in order to his being king of Spain, did not stand in need of the recognition of the emperor, although that might be necessary, in order to continue his relations with the French government.

"His imperial majesty manifested still greater irritation on account of my having said to a foreign minister, accredited to the court of Spain, that if the French army offered any violation to the integrity and independence of the Spanish sovereignty, 300,000 men would convince them that a brave and generous nation was not to be insulted with impunity.

"After this ill-treatment which I met with, which was as satisfactory to my own feelings, on account of the real causes of it, as it was painful on account of the royal personage whose interests were in question, his imperial majesty, with his natural asperity, entered into a conversation upon the points which had already been discussed. He was not insensible of the strength of my reasons, and the solidity of the arguments by which I supported the rights of the king, his dynasty, and the whole nation; but his majesty concluded by telling me, 'I have a system of policy of my own. You ought to adopt more liberal ideas; to be less susceptible on the point of honour, and not sacrifice the prosperity of Spain to the interest of the Bourbon family."

After the detail of some further negociations, not particularly interesting, the statement goes on—

"This answer, added to the other circumstances, left no doubt in the mind of the king, that he was actually at Bayonne in a state of arrest; however, to give more ostensibility to this violence extended towards his majesty, I sent a note, by his royal order, to the minister for foreign affairs, telling him that the king was determined to return to Madrid, to tranquil-

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lize the agitation of his beloved subjects, and to provide for the transaction of the important business of his kingdom; assuring Mr. Champagny at the same time, that I would continue to treat with his imperial majesty, on affairs reciprocally advantageous. No answer was given to this communication, nor had it any other effect than to increase the caution and vigilance before applied for the detention of his majesty."

Next Bonaparte is accused of artfully drawing the king to distrust his son.

"Ferdinand VII. overawed, a prisoner, and controuled by circumstances, on the 1st of May made a conditional renunciation of his crown, in favour of his august father. To this followed the letter of the royal father to his son, and the very discreet answer of the royal son to the father.

"On the 5th of the same month of May, at four in the afternoon, the emperor went to visit the royal parents, and continued in conference until five o'clock, when King Ferdinand was called in by his august father to hear, in the presence of the queen and the emperor, expressions so disgusting and humiliating, that I do not dare to record them. All the party were seated except King Ferdinand, whom the father ordered to make an absolute renunciation of the crown, under pain of being treated, with all his household, as an usurper of the throne, and a conspirator against the life of his parents.

"His majesty would have preferred death; but desirous not to involve in his misfortunes the number of persons comprised in the threat of Charles IV. he assented to another renunciation, which bears on its front all the indications of constraint and violence, and which in no respect answers its purpose, to colour over the intended usurpation of the emperor.

"These are the only instances of renunciation in which I have interfered as minister and secretary of state. That which is spoken of at Bourdeaux, I have not the least knowledge of; but I know the emperor, in the last conference with King Ferdinand VII. said to his majesty, '*Prince, il faut opter entre la cession et la mort.*'—'Prince, you have only to choose between cession and death.'

"With respect to the rest, the whole world is apprized that Charles IV. renounced the crown to the emperor at the time that the prince of Asturias, his brother the Infant Don Carlos, and his uncle the Infant Don Antonio, were forced to surrender their rights. The emperor, now believing himself proprietor of the crown of Spain, placed it on the head of his brother Joseph Napoleon, king of Naples."

After a detail of several other particulars, partly known, and partly of no great interest, he thus sums up the principal points of the discourse:

"It

"It has already been proved that the renunciation of Charles IV. in favour of his son Ferdinand VII. is vitiated in no respect. In the slight sketch which we have drawn of the perfidious and deceitful arts with which the emperor has made the progress we have seen, the series of atrocious insults offered to Spain, and to the unfortunate King Ferdinand VII. remains depicted in indelible colours.

"The emperor alarms Charles IV. in order that he may induce him to take flight for America, with all the royal family, and abandon the peninsula to the former; he lights up the flame of discord between the royal parents and their child, in order to debilitate Spain, dividing it into parties, after having disgraced the royal persons; he draws Ferdinand VII. from his court by false promises; he makes him captive in Bayonne; and when he saw that the virtue of the young king knew how to resist his designs, and that Ferdinand could not be induced to renounce his crown, he occasioned him to be brought to Bayonne, with all the other personages of the royal family, as if to present them bound before the imperial tribunal, which was both judge and party in the same cause. He endeavours to deprive the parents of the sensibilities of nature, and forces them to become the instruments of the oppression of their child. From the latter he extorts a renunciation, the most irregular and illicit transaction amongst the affairs of men; and by a series of abdications exacted by the same illegal and violent expedients, he believes that he has become the proprietor of the crown of Spain; he transfers it to his brother, without considering the infamy to which he would be exposed in the cabinets in Europe, by the usurpation of the throne of a monarch, his friend and ally.

"Who can doubt, from this clear evidence, that the renunciation executed by Ferdinand VII. in favour of his august father, and that which succeeded in favour of the emperor, are absolute nullities? Who will doubt, but that if the last should have emanated from a free exercise of the will, the rights of the dynasty of Bourbon are not prejudiced by it? Who does not know, that in case of the extinction of such a family, and by the very establishment of the Spanish monarchy, the nation alone can invite another dynasty, or can introduce such a form of government as it shall most approve?

"In another part of this narrative, I have shewn that Ferdinand VII. was too honourable to suppose that the emperor could entertain such atrocious designs. The king desired to free Spain from the oppression of the French troops; it was promised him, that this and all other matters should be regulated with the emperor, and that he should return to his kingdom with the fruit of his exertions for the good of his vassals; and no hour of his life was unseasonable to him to exert him-

self for their happiness. This I saw, and can testify. During his confinement, nothing afflicted his generous heart so much as the sufferings of his people; and when his liberty began to be doubtful, he adopted the means the most agreeable to his paternal solicitude; such was the order which he gave for the regency, naturally sought, when his freedom was interrupted; and such was the command that the cortes should be assembled to determine those questions, which in their proper places have been noticed.

"Valour and patriotism have successfully armed the whole nation in its own defence, and for the protection of their legitimate sovereign, although the people had no knowledge of the will of their beloved Ferdinand as to this movement. That patriotism, united to wisdom, will now impel them irresistibly to perform with promptitude the most important work of the central government or regency, which may administer the affairs of the kingdom in the name of his majesty.

"Thus will be completed, for the advantage of all, the last expression of the will of the king, which he condescended to use the moment before he was forced to renounce the crown; thus will the nation be preserved from this dreadful tempest; it will have exhibited before Europe an example of loyalty, honour, and generous energy, which will be the subject of admiration in every age, and in every country.

"PEDRO CEVALLOS.

"*Madrid, September* 1, 1808."

(To be concluded in our next.)

LIFE *of the late* ARCHBISHOP MARKHAM.

THAT distinguished prelate, Dr. William Markham, was born in Ireland, about the year 1720, and was the son of an officer at that time with his regiment in Ireland, and who was of a Nottinghamshire family. He was educated at Westminster school, and removed to Christ Church, Oxford, where he took the degree of bachelor of arts in 1742, and that of master in 1745. At school and at college he was distinguished by the elegance of his exercises, and particularly of his Latin verses.

About the year 1750, Dr. Markham was appointed first master of Westminster school; and he continued to discharge, with great reputation, the laborious duties of that useful and honourable employment until January, 1764. During his being master of this school, no one who preceded him was more truly beloved, or held in greater respect by the youth of that highly esteemed seminary of learning, and numbers of those who

were under his care, and who are now in the first situations in the country, mention Dr. Markham with the utmost regard and veneration.

An able first master of Westminster is too prominent a person to be overlooked by those who have the disposal of preferment. We find accordingly that in 1759, Dr. Markham was promoted to the second stall in Durham cathedral, while he held the mastership; and in 1765, to the deanery of Rochester, after he had resigned it. Both promotions were most probably owing to patrons, to whom he had been recommended by his public services.

In 1767, he vacated the deanery of Rochester, and was created dean of Christ Church, Oxford. The deanery of Christ Church is a dignity of very great importance and responsibility, involving the care both of a college and a cathedral.

In 1769, he was chosen to preach the Concio ad Clerum to the synod of the province of Canterbury. On this occasion, he demonstrated, with great force of argument and eloquence of language, that whatever in human knowledge is vain and fanciful has always been contrary to true religion; while it never opposed that learning which is conformable to reason and nature. He bestowed a just encomium on the character of Newton and his views in philosophy; and at the same time lashed, with deserved severity, the metaphysicians of the French school, who were then attempting to carry their designs into execution, by darkening and perplexing the human understanding, and bringing into contempt whatever had been esteemed sacred in religion, science, or government. The Concio was published, together with a Latin speech made on presenting Dr. Thomas as prolocutor to the higher house of convocation.

In January, 1771, Dr. Markham was consecrated bishop of Chester, and in the succeeding month was, in the first establishment for the education of the prince of Wales, chosen preceptor to his royal highness. Dr. Cyril Jackson, the present dean of Oxford, was at the same time appointed sub-preceptor.

In June, 1776, a new establishment was formed, when Dr. Markham was succeeded by Dr. Hurd, the late bishop of Worcester, and Dr. Jackson by Mr. Arnold, tutor of St. John's college, Cambridge. Why Dr. Markham and Dr. Jackson were not allowed to complete the education of the prince of Wales, is not generally known; their successors had been celebrated tutors at Cambridge, and they had been distinguished at Oxford. It seems, therefore, that it was intended to afford his royal highness the united advantages that might be expected from those who excelled in the different pursuits of the

two universities. This at least is known, that Dr. Markham, in the discharge of his duty, gave great satisfaction to the king, who personally superintended the education of his son, and that he has always retained a very enviable portion of the royal favour. The following anecdote may be mentioned in proof: Mr. Pitt promised to a friend the deanery of York, when it should become vacant by the death of Dr. Fountayne; but he was obliged to revoke the promise, having found that the king, in consequence of an application from Dr. Markham, intended it for his second son, the Rev. George Markham, who now enjoys it.

On January 20, 1777, Dr. Markham was translated to the archbishoprick of York. His life, as it can be viewed by a distant observer, appears to have been an uninterrupted series of uncommon felicity. Distinguished at a great school, and an eminent college, over both of which he was afterwards called to preside, and over the former at a very early period of life; advancing in preferments and reputation until he was promoted to a bishopric, and selected for an employment, with the due execution of which the future happiness of his country was intimately connected; afterwards rewarded by the second dignity of the English church, which he held nearly thirty-one years; the father of a numerous and prosperous family, and continued, 'till within a year or two of his death, in an extreme but vigorous old age, able to feel all the happiness of his situation; what has he not enjoyed of those things which are supposed to constitute the splendid or the solid satisfactions of life? These satisfactions he did enjoy, and he enjoyed them worthily.

Of the virtues of this prelate, fame has not been silent. They were, it is said, of the most amiable kind. With great learning, he was modest; though raised to the highest station, he was meek and humble. His religion was a religion of the mind; practised, in all the concerns of life, without austerity, and free from ostentation; a strict integrity, and high sense of honour, were conspicuous in all his dealings; and his promises were unbroken. The mildness of his temper rendered him indulgent to the fault of others, and made him a condescending, engaging, and instructing companion. Those who, in early life, had the happiness of being his pupils, universally agree, that, as an instructor, he had no equal. It is difficult to say, whether he most excelled in his manner of conveying knowledge, or in exciting youth to laudable pursuits; in storing their minds with good principles, or in eradicating bad; in extolling the happiness of virtue, or in exposing the misery of vice.

His knowledge in Greek and Roman literature was universal; his taste pure, and his topographical accuracy most uncommon;

common; with these requisites, he never failed to insure the attention of his scholars, and to enliven his lectures by pleasing and interesting anecdotes. He was so perfectly master of the proper incentives for different dispositions, that the studious were ever ambitious of his praise, whilst the idle feared his rebuke. After having successively presided over those great seminaries, Westminster and Christ Church, his character and learning recommended him as worthy to direct the education of their royal highnesses the prince of Wales and the duke of York; an event which, notwithstanding some illiberal opposition, led to that rank, which he so honourably reached, and so creditably filled.

It does not appear that the archbishop of York was ever engaged in works for the press, though no one was more consulted by others. In the great assembly of peers he seldom spoke; but, when once attacked, in a very pointed manner, for party purposes, he defended himself with great spirit and eloquence. He was not a florid nor a frequent preacher. He particularly disdained those arts by which popularity is often acquired from the pulpit; but, in the exercise of his clerical functions, his voice was clear, distinct, and melodious. His language was remarkable for its simplicity and elegance; his sentences were concise and perspicuous; and his manner in public, as in private, was animated, dignified, and persuasive.

In all the relations of life, this truly great man was peculiarly happy. As a husband he was beloved; as a father, revered; as a master, served with affection; as a patron and benefactor, his bounties were felt and gratefully acknowledged. His establishment was princely without parade, and his hospitality noble. By his assisting hand the churches of York, Ripon, and Southwell, were repaired, ornamented, and beautified. Throughout an extensive diocese, his clergy looked up to him with respect and deference; and all listened to him with love and admiration.

He was blessed with six sons and seven daughters. Eleven of his children survive him. One daughter died in the prime of youth; and a beloved and gallant son, after having obtained the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the army, fell gloriously in the service of his king and country. His grace had the happiness of seeing some of his children greatly, and others well allied; with the additional satisfaction, in his declining years, of viewing the foundation of a large posterity, annually increasing through a lengthening chain of fifty grand-children.

To enumerate all the great qualities of this venerable man is not possible. Those who have heard his sentiments, and listened to his precepts, will feel that nothing in this delineation is exaggerated; they will recognise, with pleasure, some

of those traits which their own recollection cannot fail to confirm.

To these virtues also he added the still greater one of laudable and just economy. He was not parsimonious, neither was he indiscreetly lavish. He is said to have left legacies to the large amount of 100,000l. He departed this life in his 89th year, on Tuesday, October 27, 1807, at his town residence in South-Audley-street. Besides his title of primate of England, he was lord high almoner to the king, and visitor of Queen's College, Oxford.

In his person, the archbishop of York was tall and graceful; in his manners and address, extremely dignified; and, in his conversation, instructive, entertaining, and lively. He passed an honourable life in the service of his king, his country, and the church, with the additional lustre of every social and private virtue; and closed the scene, with a death worthy that high and sacred office which he had so long and deservedly filled.

One of his grace's sons is a rear-admiral in the British fleet; and another chancellor of the diocese of York.

The remains of this venerable prelate were interred in Westminster Abbey.

DESCRIPTION *of* PRINCE *of* WALES's ISLAND.

By Mr. J. WALLACE, who visited it in 1806.

PULO-PINANG, to which the English have given the name of Prince of Wales's Island, is situated at the entrance of the straits of Malacca, about a mile and a half from the coast of Quida, between 5.7 and 5.25 of northern latitude. Its greatest extent from north to south is about eighteen miles; at the north end it is about fifteen miles in breadth; but it decreases towards the south to about eleven miles.

The climate is very mild and healthy; for, notwithstanding its vicinity to the equator, it is never liable to the extremes of heat and cold; seldom to violent and never to continued rains, as are common on the coasts of Coromandel and Malabar. On the other hand it is frequently refreshed with agreeable and cooling showers. The season of most rain is from the beginning of October to the beginning of December, after the setting in of the north-east monsoon; then also is the greatest heat, but during the south-west monsoons, the violence of which does not extend so far into the straits of Malacca, the air is cooled by a delightful alternation of land and sea-breezes. While, from Quida to Junk Ceylon, the countries only one degree farther to the northward are under the influence of the violent

violent gales and deluges of rain, which mark the setting-in and clearing up of the south-west monsoons; Prince of Wales's Island is blessed with a serene sky, and only now and then a day of moderate and light rain, no more than is necessary to invigorate and quicken vegetation. These advantages render it a place equally suited to European and Asiatic constitutions. During a late excursion into the country, a few hours ride from Fort-Cornwallis, brought our party to an elevation where the air is cooler by sixteen to twenty degrees. On these salubrious heights, European convalescents find their health perfectly restored in a few weeks; and accordingly they are much resorted to by invalids from the other English settlements in India.

Almost the whole of the northern part is mountainous, and covered with fine timber down to high-water mark. Through the centre run three ranges of hills and fine vallies between them; some of which are cultivated with pepper and a variety of fruit trees. About one half of the island is either level ground, or of so gentle an inclination, as easily to admit of cultivation. Into the large western bay run two very fine rivulets of remarkably good water; one of which is navigable for ships' long-boats, two miles inland, and empties itself into the harbour, about a mile to the southward of Fort-Cornwallis. Water is also found in all the low parts by digging to the depth of only a few feet.

The uncultivated parts are thickly covered with wood; the hills and dry grounds, with trees of an immense size, mixed with canes, rattans, and a great variety of creeping plants; the swamps, with large trees of a more flimsy texture, and with the neeboon or cabbage and beetle-nut-tree; and the ground overflowed by the tides, with the mangrove, from the bark of which a rich red dye is prepared, and other trees that grow in salt water.

The soil is generally light, and in some parts sandy, and mixed with a black vegetable mould. For the most part it is too rich for grain; so that from its luxuriancy, the crop falls down and rots before it is ripe. The most proper objects of cultivation are supposed to be pepper and other spices, and the fruits common on the peninsula of Malacca.

It is well known that the Dutch derived immense advantage from the sale of cinnamon, nutmeg, mace, and cloves. The true cinnamon tree is peculiar to Ceylon, which is now in our possession. The monopoly of the other three spices the Dutch East-India company had for more than a century secured to themselves, by extirpating the trees that produce them wherever they could be found, except in Banda and Amboyna; with which no other nation was allowed to have any intercourse. When the islands were captured last war, the directors of the East-

East-India company, and the Indian government, foreseeing, I suppose, that on the restoration of peace they would probably be given up again to our rivals, sent thither an intelligent botanist, under whose superintendance the nutmeg and clove trees, in various stages of growth, were transported to the coast of Sumatra, (near Bencoolen), and to Prince of Wales's Island, where the climate and soil have proved so congenial to them, that we may hope, ere long, to see those valuable spices become as plentiful as pepper; especially as they will not be exposed here to the hurricanes, which some years ago blew down, in one night, almost all the nutmeg-trees in Banda.

At any rate, the monopoly, which the Dutch had established by fraud, cruelty, and usurpation, and cemented with the blood of our countrymen sacrificed to their avarice, in the infamous massacre of Amboyna, is wrested from them for ever.

I have been told, that the French had before succeeded in carrying plants of the clove-tree to the Mauritius and the West-Indies, with what success I know not; but as we have heard nothing of their produce, it is probable that they have failed.

The island produces a great variety of forest-trees, many of which are fit for ship-building. The chinga is in much esteem among the Malays, for the purposes of house and ship-building. A tree at its full growth will yield from 70 to 90 by 2½ to 3 feet diameter of clear timber. The pennager, which grows only on the sea-shore and rocky ground, furnishes knees and crooked timber for ships. The bentanghoor, or red poon, affords the best timber for masts and yards, of any that is produced in India, and is esteemed next in quality to fir. It grows a very great size, and perfectly straight.

The forests abound with gum and wood-oil trees. One of the numerous species of creepers is about five inches in diameter, and grows continually twisting like a cork-screw, shooting up still in a spiral form even when it has nothing to support it; the bark of this parasite plant, which is remarkably thick, emits, when cut, a white viscous juice, which, on exposure to the air, takes in a very few minutes the colour and consistency of elastic gum, of the same appearance and answering the same purposes as the caoutchouc of South-America.

The indigenous wild quadrupeds were some deer and wild hogs. The latter are very large and numerous, and commit great ravages on the lands cultivated with sugar-cane and yams. Sheep, goats, bullocks, and other animals, that have been introduced by the settlers, thrive well and multiply fast; and haply are not exposed to the fury of the hyena or other rapacious beasts of prey, which abound on the Malay coast, but none of which are found here.

There are very few birds on the island, doves excepted, of which there is great abundance, as well as variety of species; geese, ducks, and other domestic fowls, thrive surprising well; and game and poultry may be furnished from the Malay coast. At Quida in particular they are so cheap, that a hundred good fowls may be purchased for three dollars; from twelve to sixteen ducks, for one dollar; and the price of a full-grown bullock seldom exceeds six dollars.

The whole coast swarms with every kind of fish, known in other parts of India. The market is likewise plentifully supplied with oysters, cockles, muscles, and turtle.

The number of inhabitants has been estimated at thirty thousand; of these above one thousand are Chinese. The remainder consists of Malabars, English, European, and Asiatic Portuguese, a few Dutch and Danish families, Malays, Japanese, Acheenese, Siamese, Burmans, Bugguses, Bengalees, Persees, Armenians, and Arabs. Each of these tribes have a part of the town allotted to them, and nominates one of their own class for their head man, who is in some degree responsible for their conduct.

The shops in the Bezar, which are very numerous, are kept by Chinese and Malabars. The Chinese are a very industrious quiet people, exercise almost all the handicrafts, and carry on most of the retail trade in these parts.

The harbour is sufficiently capacious to hold a large fleet, being the whole of that space between the north-east part of the island and the Quida shore, extending a very little way to the point where Fort Cornwallis stands. In the whole of this space there is good anchorage for the largest ships, as the water is always smooth, however strongly and from whatever quarter the wind may blow.

In fine, the position of Prince of Wales's Island, its climate, its fertility, its harbours, its produce of large timber, its contiguity to Pegu, which contains most abundant teak-forests, will render it an acquisition of great importance, both in a commercial and political point of view; and I doubt not that it will soon, under the fostering care of the British government, and by the enterprising spirit of the British merchants, become what Malacca was during the prosperity of the Portuguese empire in India, and in later times Batavia—the centre and emporium of the commerce of the eastern sea.

The directors of the East-India company were so sensible of its importance, that they have erected it into a separate settlement under a governor and council, and commander of the garrison of Fort-Cornwallis, which consists of a considerable body of sea-poys and Europeans. There is likewise a clergyman of the church of England, a clerk and schoolmaster. Justice is administered nearly in the same manner as in the English

lish settlements in India, by a mayor, aldermen, and justices of the peace.

HERMITS IN LONDON.

THAT hermits existed even within the limits of the metropolis in ancient times, is an undisputed fact. Among the patent rolls of the forty-seventh year of Henry the Third, it is particularly stated that when the bishop of Landaff made visits to London, he lodged within the precincts of the hermit's residence at Charing. The hermitage was dedicated to St. Katharine.

In 1298, according to one of the *inquisitiones post mortem*, the prior of St. Mary Bethlehem held the advowson of the hermitage at Cripplegate, which appears to have continued 'till within a short time of the dissolution of religious houses; for Ames, in his Typographical Antiquities, mentions three times, in 1514, 1517, and 1532, "The Fruit of Redemption, compyled by the Anker of London Wall, wreched Symon." It was resolved by parliament, so early as the reign of Edward the Third, that the persons of old times calling themselves hermits, were no other than vagrants and beggars.

In an old list of the chapels, churches, and monasteries in London, the following hermitages are enumerated:

"A anker, [an anchorite,] a priest, in the chapell of St. Osmond, by Allhalowyn, in London Walle.

"A ankres, in a chapell, and a house of Seynte Botolfe, by St. Botolfis churche, without Byshopisgate.

"A ankres in a chapell, and a house of St. Clement, by Seynte Clementis church, without Tempil Barre."

POSTHUMOUS INSCRIPTIONS.

IT was the desire of Sir William Jones, with reference to the friendship that had existed between himself and the late Lord Ashburton, that the following simple couplet might alone distinguish his own tomb:

"With none to flatter, none to recommend,
Dunning approv'd, and mark'd him as a friend."

In the same spirit, Lord Brook, desirous only of commemorating his intimacy with Sir Philip Sidney, directed it to be asserted, on his tomb, that he had been—

"Servant to Queen Elizabeth,
Counsellor to King James,
And friend to Sir Philip Sidney!"

LONDON PAGEANTS.

THE first pageants we meet with in London were exhibited when Eleanor, queen of Henry III. rode through the city to her coronation, 1236, and for the victory of Edward I. over the Scots, 1298. Another when the Black Prince made his entry, with his royal prisoner, 1357. A fourth when Richard II. his son, passed along Cheapside, 1392, after the citizens had made their submission, and by the queen's intercession recovered their charter. A fifth when Henry V. made his entry, 1415, after the battle of Agincourt. A sixth when Henry VIII. received the Emperor Charles V in 1522. A seventh when he and Ann Boleyn passed through the city to her coronation.

ILLUSTRATION *of a* CURIOUS SCOTTISH CUSTOM.

MR. WILLIAM SHAW, in his "Analysis of the Gaelic language," gives the following curious illustration of a Scotch custom:—

"There is a species of poetry," says he, "peculiar to the Gael, called *jurram* and *orain luathaidh*. The music of the *jurram* has always that mixture of grandeur and melancholy that never fails to gain its end. They are sung on board of ships and *buirlings* by the sailors when they row or work, to deceive the time. The subject is generally the life and actions of some chief or relation. The language is such as to express the sentiments and actions described; the music, expression, and stroke of the oars, coinciding in such exact time, both the sailor and the passenger forget their hardships and fatigue, even in the most inclement seasons. The *orain luathaidh*, with the same view, is sung when they work on shore, and derives its name from *luathaidh*, milling or fulling. 'Till very lately, fulling of cloths by mills was not known in the Highlands, and in some parts is not yet introduced. They fulled their cloth by laying it wet on an extended frame of rods wattled together, around which were placed as many women as could conveniently be employed, who by an alternate motion of their feet, kept the cloth in perpetual rotation. One of them, in the mean time, sung the verse, and all the rest at once joined in the chorus. And even at this day, when these songs are sung in genteel company, a lady's handkerchief or a gentleman's bonnet supplies the place of a piece of cloth, every one laying hold of a corner. The time of this species of singing is not so quick as that of the reel, nor so slow as the *jurram*. It is, however, exceedingly lively, and justifies what a French gentleman observed of the Scotch music: *La musique Ecossoise sur tout pour le divertissement et toucher le cœur.*

Answer, by J. Melhuish, of Bridgewater, to W. D. Champion's Rebus, inserted August 22.

WHEN waves o'er waves like lofty mountains rise,
And wild tornadoes agitate the skies,
E'en then our fleets at sea triumphant ride,
And seem the raging TEMPEST to deride.

☞ We have received the like answer from J. Saunders, and J. Treadwin, of Exeter; Mary Davis, and J. Trood, of Bridgewater; S. Duck, and Frederick Arden, of South Petherton; John French, of Evershot school; C. Crews, of Newton Abbot; W. Petherick, of St. Austell; Hester Easter, of Poole; J. W. of Charmouth; J. Vellenoweth, near Helston; R. Loosemore, of Tiverton; D. Cox, of Tiverton school; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; T. P. and T. Kite, of Chard; R. Withall, of Plymouth; and Philomath, of Knackershole.

Answer, by Mary Davis, of Bridgewater, to A. Kyne's Rebus, inserted the 29th of August.

AMIDST gay Flora's smiling tribe,
With varied beauties deck'd,
A PINK, the subject for your lines,
Your genius did select.

*** Similar answers have been received from J. W. of Charmouth; John Treadwin, and J. Saunders, of Exeter; F. Arden, of South Petherton; J. Melhuish, W. D. Champion, and J. Trood, of Bridgewater; J. Patten, J. Ball, and J. French, at Evershot school; H. Easter, Poole; and R. Loosemore, of Tiverton.

An ANAGRAM, *by S. D. of South Petherton.*

A Bird, ye gents. aright transpose,
A foreign river you'll disclose.

A CHARADE, *by T. Mark, Withall.*

SHOULD Bonaparte, with his vile crew,
E'er on our coast appear in view,
Each Briton to my first would fly,
To crush the foe, or bravely die;
And thro' my second's awful reign
Firm to their post they would remain:
Now e'er my whole doth half expire,
You'll find the answer I require.

A REBUS, *by C. Crews, of Newton Abbot.*

AROUND the garland oft my first doth dance,
On verdure green, or fertile plain perchance;
If you, kind Sir, my second would induce,
It is a letter of important use;
My whole is far from this bless'd sea-girt shore,
Where Britons made their awful cannon roar,
Where Gallic sons a direful shock sustain'd,
And conqu'ring Britons a great victory gain'd;
Nobly they fought, and gain'd a glittering star,
The just reward of bravery and of war.

POETRY.

LOCHINVAR.

LADY HERON'S SONG.—*From the Fifth Canto of Marmion, or a Tale of Flodden Field.*

By WALTER SCOTT, *Esq.*

OH! young Lochinvar is come out of the west,
Thro' all the wide border his steed was the best;
And save his good broad sword he weapons had none,
And he rode all unarm'd, and he rode all alone.
So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war,
There never was knight like the young Lochinvar.

He staid not for brake, and he stopped not for stone;
He swam the Eske river where ford there was none;
But, ere he alighted at Netherby* gate,
The bride had consented, the gallant came late;
For a laggard in love, and a dastard in war,
Was to wed the fair Ellen of brave Lochinvar.

So boldly he entered the Netherby hall,
'Mong bridesmen, and kinsmen, and brothers, and all:
Then spoke the bride's father, his hand on his sword,
(For the poor craven bridegroom said never a word),
"Oh! come ye in peace here, or come ye in war,
Or to dance at our bridal, young Lord Lochinvar?"

"I long woo'd your daughter, my suit you deny'd;
Love swells like the Solway, but ebbs like its tide—
And now am I come, with this lost love of mine,
To lead but one measure, drink one cup of wine.
There are maidens in Scotland, more lovely by far,
That would gladly be bride to the young Lochinvar."

The bride kiss'd the goblet; the knight took it up,
He quaff'd off the wine, and he threw down the cup.
She look'd down to blush, and she look'd up to sigh,
With a smile on her lip, and a tear in her eye.
He took her soft hand, ere her mother could bar—
"Now tread we a measure," said young Lochinvar.

So stately his form, and so lovely her face,
That never a hall such a gallinrd did grace;
While her mother did fret, and her father did fume,
And the bridegroom stood dangling his bonnet and plume!
And the bride-maidens whisper'd, "'Twere better by far
To have match'd our fair cousin with young Lochinvar."

One touch to her hand, and one word in her ear,
When they reach'd the hall-door, and the charger stood near;
So light to the croupe the fair lady he swung,
So light to the saddle before her he sprung!
"She is won! we are gone, over bank, bush, and scaur; ‡
They'll have fleet steeds that follow," quoth young Lochinvar.

There

* The seat of Sir James Graham, in Cumberland.

‡ The border term for a flat rock, forming the appearance of a cicatrix on the face of the earth.

There was mounting 'mong Gremes of the Netherby clan,
Forsters, Fenwicks, and Musgraves, they rode and they ran.
There was racing and chacing on Cannoble Lee,
But the lost bride of Netherby ne'er did they see,
So daring in love, and so dauntless in war,
Have ye e'er heard of gallant like young Lochinvar.

MY DEAR NATIVE VILLAGE.

WHEN I trace back the scenes of my juvenile days,
How faithfully mem'ry each object pourtrays;
I see the lambs play, and the kine sweetly graze,
In the meads near my dear native village.

I view the old oak, still majestic and gay,
Round which, at the close of a rich summer day,
My infantine comrades would oft with me play,
To enliven my dear native village.

See! there stands the cottage, with woodbines bedeck'd,
Surrounded by poplars, large grown, and erect,
Where dwelt my poor parents in decent respect,
Quite content with my dear native village.

And yonder's the lawn where, as manhood advanc'd,
Each Midsummer eve I have merrily danc'd,
While innocence sweet every pleasure enhanc'd,
'Midst the sport of my dear native village.

Ah me! there's the church where to Heaven I've pray'd,
With fervour devout, for protection and aid,
And see too, the yew-tree, beneath which were laid
Those I lov'd of my dear native village.

Oh cease, mem'ry cease! I no more can indite,
My relatives dear all in dust there unite,
And tears dim my eyes while I mournfully write
Of their loss, and my dear native village.

Swanswick, October, 1808. J. A.

MORNING: A SONNET.

BRIGHT rose the morn and beautiful; the sun
With fairy splendour all the landscape crown'd,
His strongest beams illum'd the nearer ground,
And o'er the distant hills more faintly shone.
But ah! too soon those transient rays are gone!
The sullen gale sends forth a hollow sound,
Low'r the black clouds, surcharg'd with rain around,
And veil Aurora in their mantle dun!
And, like the early morning, I awoke,
With every pleasure glittering in my view;
The sun of hope o'er the fair prospect broke,
And diamond tipp'd each blossom wet with dew;
'Till by a sudden, unexpected stroke,
Faded the brilliant scene, and prov'd my hopes untrue.

EPITAPH ON A VIRTUOUS MAN.

VAIN hope to hide his relics from his foes,
The fragrant dust betrays the good man's grave.